

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner noted that claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-13, and 16-17 are pending in the application. The Examiner allowed claims 16-17, rejected claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 13, and objected to claims 2-5 and 12. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2-5 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 2-5, 12, and 16-17 remain pending in the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below, and reconsideration of all rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0042448, issued to Lebizay et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Lebizay"). The Applicants respectfully traversed the Examiner's rejections of these claims. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 2-5 and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment claims 2-5 and 12 have been amended to include all of the features of claim 1, upon which these claims previously depended. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5 and 12 patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2-5 and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been presented. Thus, claims 2-5, 12, and 16-17 remain pending in the application.

Serial No. 10/849,192

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

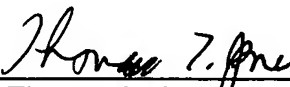
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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